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COUNTRY Ecuador

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SUBJECT Legalization of the Rural Police of Ecuador

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g
REPORT NO.

1. The establishment of an Ecuadorian Rural Police Service within the National Civil Guard of Ecuador has been made official by Article No. 186 of General Order No. 30 signed by the Commanding General of the National Civil Guard on 5 February 1949. Major Carlos Alban has been appointed Acting Commander.
2. As previously reported,* the President of the Republic, Galo Plaza Lasso, endeavored to found the Rural Police as a separate entity under the Minister of Government. This was strongly opposed by the Commanding General of the Civil Guard and by the Comptroller General, Sr. Ruperto Alarcon. Alarcon, acting in his official capacity, refused to accept as valid Decree No. 46, which established the Rural Police as a separate unity, on the grounds that the formation of such a police force was not provided for in the Constitution and was therefore illegal. According to his interpretation, the Constitution provides for a rural police service under the main police force. He therefore refused to allot public funds for a separate rural service, and the President was obliged to alter his original plan.

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